

POINT

THE TOC H MAGAZINE

3

December
1997



TOC H

Bringing people together

POINT 3

Toc H is about people. Founded in 1915, Toc H fights to break down barriers by challenging individuals' preconceptions of others and the divisions which exist in society. While its work is based on Christian principles, all faiths and none are recognised and accepted.

Toc H works with people from all walks of life, tackling social problems such as loneliness, isolation and deprivation through an approach which focuses on self-help and taking responsibility for oneself and the local community.

Toc H uses the model of the compass to emphasise four personal challenges which are the inspiration for its membership. The Four Points of the Toc H Compass are:

1 **Friendship: 'To Love Widely'**

to 'welcome all in friendship'.

2 **Service: 'To Build Bravely'**

to 'give personal service'.

3 **Fairmindedness: 'To Think Fairly'**

to 'listen always to the views of others'.

4 **The Kingdom of God: 'To Witness Humbly'**
to 'acknowledge the spiritual nature of man'.

Point 3 is the magazine of **Toc H**, and derives its title from the third Point of the Toc H Compass. It acts as a vehicle for communication between staff and members, informing, encouraging and stimulating readers on topical and relevant issues. Contributions are welcome from any group or individual involved in Toc H.

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Cover Photos: A flavour of Central Council 1997

Toc H is an active Movement of people practising reconciliation by being open to all in friendship, offering service in the community, confronting intolerance and prejudice, and discovering a faith to live by. We bring the Toc H experience to as many people as possible to develop personal growth and build caring communities.

Registered Charity No. 211042

A ROYAL MESSAGE



CLARENCE HOUSE
S.W.1

31st October 1997

Dear Mr Lyddiard

I have conveyed to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother who is at present in Scotland. Her Majesty was touched by the sentiments you expressed and your words have given comfort to the members of her family.

Queen Elizabeth congratulates you on all that Toc H has achieved during the past year and Her Majesty was particularly pleased to hear that your People and Families under Pressure scheme which proved so successful in Cheshire is to be repeated in Whitchapel.

The Queen Mother hopes that your annual Council Meeting will be a most successful and happy occasion and Her Majesty sends you all her best wishes for the continuance of your dedicated work.

Laura Smith
Private Secretary to
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

M.R. Lyddiard, Esq.,
Director, Toc H.

A message from the editor

As you receive your December issue of Point 3 Christmas should soon be upon you. I have purposely not turned this issue into a Christmas one as I felt you might appreciate some relief from all the festivities. However, as a gesture of appreciation to all Point 3 readers, I have negotiated a special, two colour edition which is being produced at no extra cost. I would like to wish all those who receive Point 3 a very happy Christmas and great things for 1998. I hope you enjoy the extra colour!

Sarah Claridge

Sarah Claridge
Communications Officer/Editor

THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

Three powerful speakers left attendees of this year's Central Council in no doubt about what is needed to secure the future of Toc H. There must be radical change in Toc H to focus on the things that really matter. It is time to forget trivial worries and concentrate on the big issues of our values, purpose and role in society. **Sarah Claridge** reports on speeches by the Chairman, Director and National Chaplain...

TIMES ARE A-CHANGING AND WE'D BETTER START SWIMMING OR WE'LL SINK LIKE A STONE....

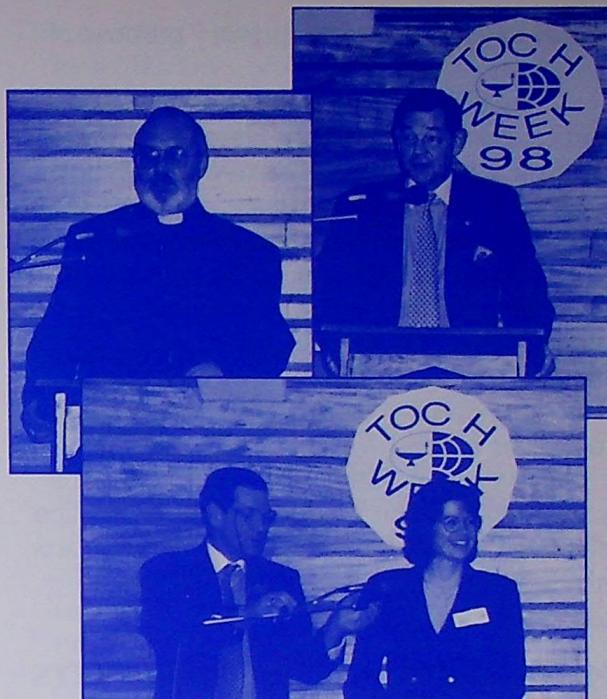
The Director, Mike Lyddiard opened his Saturday address with a quote from the poet and singer/songwriter Bob Dylan and announced that the theme he wanted to explore was Toc H in a changing world.

Change, Mike pointed out, is an inevitable fact of life, "we cannot escape change," he said. Society has, and will continue, to change as new generations and new attitudes make their mark. Toc H however has failed, he feels, to keep abreast of these changes, failed to take note and adjust to what is occurring in the outside world. "We are not," he said, "in difficulty because they out there have changed, but because we have failed to adapt and change to new attitudes and opportunities."

Mike went on to cite just some of the many developments witnessed over recent years which have "shaped not only society," but "the way we live and what we do our thinking, our values our relationships with each other."

He highlighted the arrival of the age of information technology; changes in the distribution of employment and wealth; in the role of women; in the pattern of family life; in increased multiculturalism and in the role of volunteers. He noted also the issues of homelessness, poverty, poor housing and urban decay. Ours is, he feels, increasingly a "quick fix society" where the emphasis is on profitability and efficiency - a society devoid of human contact, where loneliness and isolation are rife.

The Director appealed for his audience to "remember what Toc H stands for," namely its "true role of reaching out in love, friendship and service to others who have a need."



The three key speakers, Mike Lyddiard (top), Revd Alan Johnson (left), Helen James (bottom)

Traditionally Toc H had sought to address issues of human need and it is time, he feels, that Toc H again "develops an awareness of what is happening in our communities, identifying where the real needs are and responding to them." To encourage new Members and enthuse a new generation we must as Members return, he believes, to focusing on development issues, to "lift our horizons and let our imagination and creativity run free" in an attempt to address some of the ills of society.

MISSION NOT MAINTENANCE

The National Chaplain, Alan Johnson, delivered an address on Sunday which was to equally challenge his Toc H audience. Echoing Mike's concern that Toc H has failed to keep abreast of the changes in 20th Century society, he stated the importance that "Toc H be effective in its mission." "Toc H over the years," he said, "has become increasingly concerned with itself. There has been a preoccupation with structure to the detriment of the real development of a Movement. Since the Second World War, our energies have been directed primarily inwards rather than outwards; we have concentrated too much energy and time on maintenance rather than mission. In fact, we have even

continued ...

begun to lose sight of the primary purpose of the Movement."

"The time has come now for change. Radical change," said Alan. He quoted Tubby Clayton, saying "Toc H has two choices for its future, either to be a small society complete with rules and over organised; or it can lay aside a sense of failure and step out bravely in the Master's Name into the wilderness of human need." Using the nation's reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales as an illustration, he highlighted the "desperate need for values in (the) world."

However, as Alan pointed out, little time is left to implement this change of heart. "The decision has to be made today... in the hearts, minds and wills of every single Member of the Movement."

MEMBERS ARE ONE OF THREE KEYS TO TOC H's FUTURE

Speaking in her outgoing address, the Chairman, Helen James, identified what she believes are three crucial elements to the

future success of Toc H. The first, she feels, is its Members. It is vital in her view that Members recognise the importance of ownership of the Movement for themselves. It is only the Members - not the CEC, the Director or staff - who can and must make the Movement develop and succeed. In this ownership she feels that ideas and enthusiasm - the second key, are essential. The Movement needs fresh, new initiatives and activities which will attract and bring in outside interest and new Members. Finally, the third element is Toc H's very own uniqueness. It is vital the Movement, Helen believes, concentrates on its mission and ethos and does not lose sight of what makes it so very special.

Full transcripts of speeches by the Director and National Chaplain are available from Central Services. The Director's speech is also available in tape format from Central Services or your local Central Councillor or Regional Officers.

Alan Johnson further explores the issues he raised at Council in this issue of Point 3 -see page 10.

CEC REPORT

Jim Simpson, stepping in for Vice-Chairman, Arthur Heffernan who was only able to attend for part of the day due to illness, reported to Council on the CEC's past 12 months. Jim explained that the most painful decision of the year - the closure of Toc H in Germany - must now be followed by a period where we 'let the wounds heal'. Jim also outlined the significant steps the CEC are taking to improve communication and build up closer relations with Central Councillors. Finally, he paid tribute to the work and commitment of Gerry Conibeer whose contribution to the CEC as Hon. Treasurer has sadly had to come to an end due to illness.



Helen James (above) and John Biggerstaff (below) deep in thought



REPORT ON THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Jeremy Topham, as acting Hon. Treasurer, supplied a comprehensive overview on the sobering issue of the year's finances, describing it as "an interesting year". He explained that while Toc H had finished the year with an underlying deficit of £800,000, this was much improved on that of the previous year when the deficit stood at £1.1 million. Jeremy drew attention to issues such as the closure of Germany and the ensuing problem of misappropriation of funds, the complexity of Toc H's investment portfolio and the desperate need for fundraising initiatives to succeed. Without any increase in our income our underlying deficit will remain at £500,000 for the year '97/98, but Jeremy nevertheless remained confident about the future of Toc H and optimistic that the Movement's financial difficulties can be overcome.

THE ORDER OF MOTIONS

Three motions came before Councillors this year for consideration and debate. A summary of these and the ensuing decisions are outlined below:

The Motion: Membership

'to move Toc H membership into the millennium by carrying out the following:

1. All people participating in Toc H activities will automatically be offered free membership of Toc H for one year.
2. Corporate membership will be offered to all businesses, funders, voluntary and statutory partners of Toc H.
3. That this Council should instruct the CEC to look into a form of membership for people under 16 years old and report back to Central Council 1988.'

The debate: the proposer, Janet Clay, put forward measures to make Toc H membership more readily accessible and available to newcomers. Reform of membership which included a form of "after care service" for new Members would help, she felt, break down some of the existing mystique and encourage membership development. Discussion mainly surrounded the concern that membership was not 'watered down' in any way to lose its meaning and the implications if newcomers no longer served a 'probationary period'.

The decision: the motion was carried with the proviso that some wording was amended. In point 1 "will" was replaced by "should", and "free membership" by "guest membership". In point 2 "corporate membership" was changed to "some form of corporate association."

The Motion: Membership Cards

'that this Council instructs the CEC to reconsider the issue of membership cards each year and introduce a permanent card.'

The debate: Harry Graham proposed that since Members often view joining Toc H as a lifelong commitment, it would be administratively cheaper and easier to replace an annual renewable card with a permanent, life one. The advantages of actively confirming membership each year were then discussed.

The decision: motion rejected.

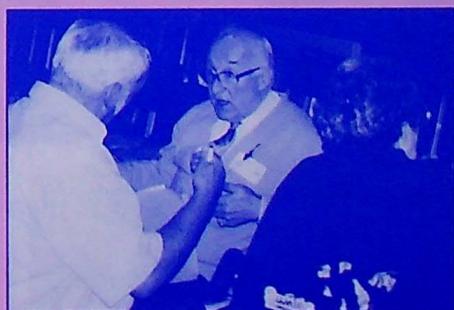
The Major Motion*: Group 88

'that this Council resolves that Group 88 should become part of Toc H from 1st April 1998, subject to ratification at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the current Group 88 members - yet to be arranged. The existing Group 88 network will be known as The Toc H Group 88 initiative.' (edited)

The debate: John Cox outlined the background and concept of Group 88 and how its role of offering practical and social support to the recently bereaved could be developed into a new Toc H expression. During debate reservations were expressed amongst others about the emphasis Group 88 place on social rather than service activities.

The decision: rejected.*

* For a Major Motion Councillors are restricted to the options of either accepting or rejecting the motion or requesting a redraft. No amendments are permitted.



Members in debate

CENTRAL COUNCIL 1997

A résumé of the weekend's events

A Workshop Workout

Providing a contrast to the formal proceedings of much of the day were a series of workshops on Saturday afternoon designed to allow Members to stretch and exercise their minds on a number of Toc H issues. Divided into small discussion groups, Councillors spent time exploring such themes as Toc H Week, Fundraising and Reflection events.

Quotable Quotes

"I have a way" said the Chair, Helen James, referring to her technique for silencing over lengthy speakers.

"the joke about the heart patient and the nurse" - Jim Simpson on Arthur Heffernan's traditional joke.

"his 42 page CV" - Peter Smith about Jeremy Topham's credentials for becoming Hon. Treasurer.

"similar to becoming a nun" - Janet Clay's analogy of the process of becoming a Member.

"Toc Tubbies" - Freda Parker's suggestion for the name of a Toc H Youth Group.

And a little light relief...

As always, socialising, catching up with old friends and making new ones was an important part of the weekend's agenda...



A game of Jenga... brings people together
Sarah Claridge, Tom Berry,
Mike Lyddiard, Freda Parker
and Margaret Winstanley were
just some of the participants



A lot of hugging went on...

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The CEC

14 candidates stood for office. The successful nominees who will make up the CEC for the forthcoming year are:

Christine Bostock
Diane Claxton
Peter Ellis (co-opted)
Andrea Fairhurst
Arthur Heffernan
Kate Moss
Ann Powell
Anne Puddicombe (co-opted)
Derek Ridgway
Jim Simpson
Peter Smith
Laurie Tuckey
Jack Turner
Christine Williams

The Chair

Di Claxton was elected by the CEC as the new Chair for 1997/98 and Arthur Heffernan the Vice Chair.

The Honorary Treasurer

Jeremy Topham was elected by Councillors to act as Honorary Treasurer for the next 5 years.

The Auditors

Councillors voted to accept Moores Rowland Charities Group as the appointed Auditors for 1997/8.



The newly elected CEC



MY TOC H MAGIC MOMENT OF 1997

We closed the lock gate and watched the "Hannah" make its way towards the swing bridge some half mile further west along the canal. It was a fine May morning so Nick and I decided to walk along the tow path of this glorious stretch of the Kennet and Avon canal and open the swing bridge. Nick had joined the "Hannah" at Hungerford along with his friends from Mencap for a special day out as guests of the Southern Region Project Branch (SRPB) canalboat Project.

Nick, apart from his learning difficulties, cannot talk and so as we walked along I wondered how we would be able to converse. No problem. Within 30 seconds Nick and I were getting to know one another by hand gestures, winks, nods and laughs and within a minute or so we were communicating well. We discussed the dishevelled state of my appearance. Mud and water weed, together with a rip, spoilt my trousers, and I had lock grease on my hands and shirt. All this compared unfavourably with Nick's immaculate turn out. Nick also pointed out, with the use of hand gestures, the various water fowl and the noises they make. By the time we had reached the swing bridge we had become good friends.

I had taken over leadership of the Project due to Shelagh being called into hospital at short notice and because of my previous experience in handling a canalboat, but I approached the task with some trepidation as it had been some 40 years since I had last lead a residential Toc H Project. I need not have worried as with the support of a superb crew, the Project was both enjoyable and trouble free.

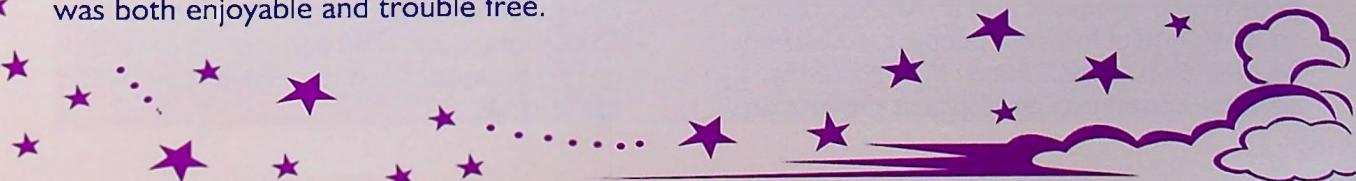
This was the fourth time the SRPB had organised a canalboat Project in collaboration with Newbury Mencap and the Bruce Charitable Trust. The Trust has a number of specially designed and constructed canalboats for the use of people with disabilities and the "Hannah" has proved to be the most popular so far for the Project.

Later in the day as Nick, together with his friends, went ashore at Little Bedwyn, he missed his footing and was about to get wet. Immediately there were a number of helping hands, including my own, to ensure this did not happen and the result was that Nick only sustained a shoe full of canal water as well as providing hilarious entertainment for his friends and the Toc H crew. We last saw Nick smiling and waving as he got into his transport back to Hungerford.

Thank you Nick for allowing me to be of service to you and reminding me what Toc H is really about, and in particular for the instant friendship and communication I experienced in my short walk along the tow path. Toc H Projects have lost none of their relevance over a period of 40 years. Indeed this was my Toc H "magic moment" of 1997.

John Stevens
Southern Region

Do you, like John, have a Toc H magic moment from the past year? Why not write about it for a special Point 3 feature - every Branch, Group or Unit must have at least one happy memory from 1997!



A NEW SCHEME FOR LONDON'S EAST END

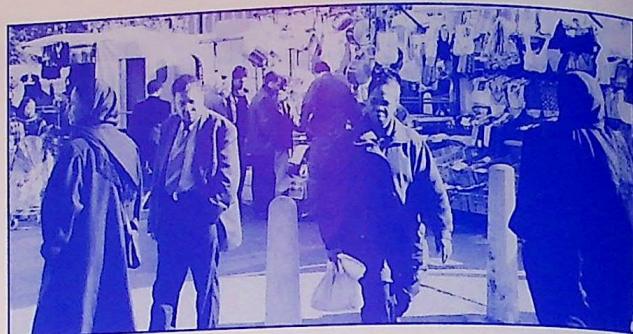
Back in September an average day at Central Services was lit up when news came through that proposals submitted to the Wakefield Trust had been successful. We had secured their funding and the bid to develop a scheme in East London had been given the green light.

Those of you who have read the Director's Briefings in Point 3 over the past months will know the background to the initiative. One year ago to the month, in September 1996, a presentation was made to the Wakefield Trust - long term supporters of Toc H work in the East End - outlining proposals to investigate the feasibility of introducing an adaptation of the Toc H Families and People under Pressure model to the Whitechapel area. The scheme on the surface appeared a winner, uniting two great Toc H success stories. Firstly the existing Toc H community work in the area which over years of hard work had built up Toc H credibility and a well respected reputation. Secondly the Families and People under Pressure pilot in Cheshire which has adopted an innovative approach to offering informal support to members of the local community experiencing difficulties in their lives.

However it was necessary to test this hunch so a researcher, Helen Menezes of the Cedar Centre (see opposite) was employed.

Helen studied this part of inner city London, where ethnic diversity is intense. Despite covering a relatively small geographical area, there is little fusion of cultures, beliefs or attitudes. Communities live within communities, each one in turn sub-divided in to smaller groupings according to religion, age, gender etc. Behind the apparent life, vigour and colour on the streets and markets, there lies conflict, tension and troubles. As Helen commented in her subsequent report,^① "there is a real need for people from different ethnic groups to meet together in a positive way."

So how could a Families & People under Pressure model seek to address these problems? Helen identified the fact that "making a difference depends on supporting and encouraging good work, making people feel positive and optimistic about change, creating an environment in which people can succeed on their own terms." Helen highlighted the need for community development rather than



community services, which places great emphasis on "people providing such services themselves, changing the way they see themselves within society and, in the long-term, improving the quality of their lives and the lives of the people around them." She endorsed a "cultural shift - away from the culture of dependency and suspicion that keeps people apart and towards a culture of independence and mutual support that builds on the positive elements of cultural diversity."

It was increasingly clear that the attitude and approach that the Whitechapel area needs could be provided by Toc H. A scheme was drawn up, based on the philosophy of empowerment and self help and, using Helen's findings, identified a number of aims and objectives. Accompanied by the details of costings, planning, timing, start up etc, the formal plan was then presented to the Wakefield Trust. Its overall purpose was "to create a partnership that brings together people representing a wide range of interests within the locality... to create a multi-functional resource designed to promote inter-community understanding and co-operation. An extension of this purpose is to create a methodology that can be replicated elsewhere."^② Put in specific terms, its aims and objectives were outlined as:

- Promoting greater cross-cultural understanding between young people, and between generations.
- Promoting greater awareness of the importance of the role of women and girls.
- To provide access to a range of information and services available through other agencies and networks.
- To provide opportunities for participants to develop new and existing skills and talents.
- To encourage and train participants to take on responsibilities and leadership roles within the scheme.



The Whitechapel area.

With the Wakefield Trust support now secured, steps have immediately been taken to begin implementing the five year scheme. Already recruitment of staff has begun with a view to formally launching the scheme in Spring 1998. No one knows at this stage just what form the development work will take in practical terms. By its very nature the work must develop alongside, and according to, the needs of the local community. Primarily staff have to listen to and support the local residents in their own efforts. Perhaps they will want to set up activities to promote cross cultural understanding; or to organise some advice shops on job seeking or childcare facilities. Or develop English language learning opportunities. Who knows? The scheme is, at this stage, a completely open book. However, we must

temper any excitement and, as Helen points out, not be too impatient for progress. Establishing sustainable community development takes a long time. "Nurturing a project," she says, "is like bringing up a child. You have to allow the project... to make mistakes. You have to allow time for people not used to taking responsibility to start feeling comfortable with the idea. They need time to build confidence and to recognise and develop skills." The scheme is undoubtedly a challenge - but Toc H has never been afraid of a challenge, or of trying innovative ways to improve peoples' quality of life and I, for one, do not doubt the scheme's ability to succeed.

Sarah Claridge
Communications Officer

^① *Making a difference - a report on the work of Toc H in Whitechapel, present and future by Helen Menezes.*

^② *Toc H - a scheme for the new millennium by Mike Lyddiard.*

HELEN AND THE CEDAR CENTRE

Having read Helen Menezes report I became curious. Who was Helen Menezes? What was the Cedar Centre, of which she is Director? What did she think of Toc H? A short phone call to Helen and I was on my way to visit her and the Centre to find out the answers to my questions.

Travelling across London, through the imposing, new-age Canary Wharf, I found the Cedar Centre tucked away in the residential heart of the Isle of Dogs. In sharp contrast to the silence of the deserted streets and faceless office blocks across the dockland water, inside the Centre was a hive of people and human activity. Evidence of real people living in a real community surrounded me.

In the short time I was there I encountered the broadest cultural mix of people imaginable. Everyone was treated with dignity and respect and given all the time they needed to seek the assistance or support they needed. In one corner a mixed ability English language class was being held, in another people were working independently on computers. One lady who spoke little English was being shown how to work the photocopier, while around her staff were involved in administrative duties.

Over a cup of coffee Helen explained the ethos of the Centre and her views on community development. Full of enthusiasm and energy, she is passionate in her views and her work. Her approach to community development in many

ways cuts across traditional methods of offering community support. All too often, she feels, a service is run according to the wishes of those who fund it rather than those who use it. Often run in an unfriendly, imposing manner, local services are frequently intimidating. By creating a more welcoming, open environment, where people feel comfortable about revealing and sharing their problems, more can be done to assist them. Such is the approach at the Cedar Centre where individuals can bring along any problem, knowing that they will be listened to and supported.

As an independent co-operative community resource the Cedar Centre aims to promote co-operative self-development of individuals and groups of all cultures and backgrounds. Helen and her co-founders set it up to work with people in five key areas: education and training; advice and information; child care; networking and fundraising. All staff regardless of role are paid the same wages in recognition of the equal contribution that every member makes. Up to 150 people use the Centre each day.

And how did she view Toc H? Helen appeared fascinated. She particularly identified with the Talbot House philosophy of abandoning rank at its doors which she sees as a powerful image for the dispossessed of any age. She saw the Movement as "caring because you care, not because you're paid to", thus identifying our unique strength when it comes to community service.

SC

TOC H MUST FULFIL ITS TRUE MISSION

I am grateful to John Dunwell for his article in last month's Point 3. The nation's response to the shocking and tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was truly extraordinary, and I am sure that John is quite correct in suggesting that the best memorial of all would be that we live out those qualities which the public saw her as embodying during her life.

I have argued for many years that society appears to have lost those most important of things: respect, dignity, relationship, meaning. A society which has lost these qualities is illustrated in the way people respond to each other: they will become more selfish, more dominated by the demands of ambition and money, and will increasingly find themselves living lives of isolation rather than community. Today's world has rejected the perceived formality, stuffiness and dogma of the Church which appears to have failed in its mission to meet people's needs, so that there is nowhere that people can find meaning to life.

At a recent meeting, the bishops of the Church of England discussed the response of the nation to Diana's death and the way in which the Church coped with the people's needs. The Bishop of Rochester wrote in the Church Times recently "The loss of Princess Diana acted as a catalyst for many people's emotions, bringing to the surface memories of other griefs and losses. Where death has broken open people's pain, clergy and laity can help them move on, working through implicitly religious feelings to construct a new future.... The House of Bishops considered the nation's investment in contemporary myths, arising from Princess Diana's complex media image. She was Cinderella: the girl made good, the Ugly Duckling made super-model. She was a loving mother and modern, caring 'saint', protected from dirt or guilt. She was a survivor, emerging with a strong voice and her own power. At the last, she was a romantic heroine in love with a wealthy, exotic stranger. These images of her spoke to the fantasies and aspirations of people used to living vicariously. When Princess Diana died, she destroyed many dreams. The Church must transform the power of this young, dead, female icon, and the hold she exerted on the mental lives of men as well as women."

The nationwide response to Diana's death was an expression of profound need - a need for all those things which Diana appeared to represent - primarily relationship and compassion. In the aftermath of Diana's death, people wanted to

express their deep-rooted feelings in some appropriate ritualistic way. They were searching to make meaning out of their experience - searching for something beyond themselves; a religious need, a search for God. Fortunately, the Church was open and creative enough to prepare a funeral service which opened itself to the hearts of a wide range of people; and churches of all denominations all over the country opened their doors to their communities.

What does all this mean for Toc H? The Movement has always stood for those principles which society clearly expressed its need for at the time of Diana's death. The Four Points of the Compass; Friendship, Service, Fairmindedness, and the Kingdom of God, are values which we have lost sight of through recent decades. But their crucial importance as the 'eternal realities' cannot be eroded by the winds of a passing age.

At the heart of Toc H is the task of rediscovering, practising and sharing with others those values which we know by experience are so important. They are values which give us quality of life and which give people meaning and purpose. This is what we must live and proclaim as a Movement reaching towards the next millennium. However it is 'packaged', whatever practical pieces of work we may put in place, however desperate we may be for new participants and new Members, this is our first priority: to live out our values and share them with others.

It is the values of Toc H which make the Movement special - some would say unique. Because of the pressure on us during recent years, through decline in activities and membership, we have concentrated our efforts on promoting our activities, hoping that we will encourage new people to join us in our pieces of 'service'. But Toc H is not a 'service' charity, and we would do well to remember that our acts of service are an expression of our values; they are a vehicle for action, for practising what we believe, a means of sharing the extraordinary friendships we have discovered for ourselves. At this crucial point in the Movement's history we run the risk of becoming so preoccupied with the decline of the Movement, so concerned at trying to create a future and get more Members, that we will lose sight of what Toc H is really about.

This is not to say that we must not think about our activities, nor that we should ignore the changes which are essential if we are to go forward. It is about ensuring that we are clear

continued ...

about our priorities. At Central Council this year there were readings from both Tubby Clayton^①... "The danger, of course, is that all our energies should be expended on the membership. When this occurs, a Movement dies, and when it dies it becomes entombed in a Society... Many societies tend to enclose rather than to extend an influence. Having begun by hoping to convert new men, they end up by being unable to convert themselves... They have no place in the spiritual history of a race. A Movement is a stream, with origin and destiny, a Society is a still pool of social persons. The true test of a Movement is its influence on those outside its membership."

...and St Luke (12)...

"And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek

his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

The message is clear. We must be certain that our minds and hearts are focused on the values and principles of Toc H - on 'the kingdom'. We distract ourselves from our values at our peril, for we will then be nothing more than a comfortable 'society' in continuing decline.

The tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, allowed people to grieve for the values they felt had been lost. Toc H has those values. We must focus on them, proudly live them and give them away so that Toc H can fulfil its true mission.

Alan Johnson
National Chaplain

^①Central Council Speech: *Toc H Journal*, June 1932.

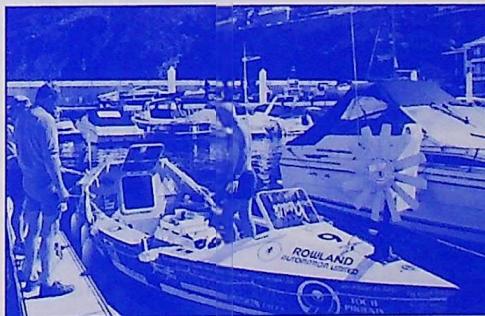
TOC H PHOENIX SETS SAIL

How many times would that knot have to take the strain over 3000 miles? How many times would that hatch have to keep the sea out over three months? As we finished off last minute jobs on the Toc H Phoenix in Los Gigantes Harbour, Tenerife our minds tried to visualise the rigours each screw, hinge and piece of cord would have to endure. And what of Steve and Mark? Were they ready in body and mind? As the last few days slipped by we felt more and more assured that everything that could be done, had been done.

Wednesday 8th October

October: the local Lions had organised a Gala Evening. The tickets sold, plus an auction of race memorabilia, all helped to raise thousands of pounds to enable the Lions to arrange holidays in Tenerife for English children and holidays in Britain for Spanish children. The music, the setting, the view, the breeze from across the Atlantic and the mixture of team supporters and local residents all made it the highlight celebration for the race.

Thursday 9th October: back to those finishing touches. We were just making sure that everything was neat and secure, maybe smoothing a rough edge here and there, making things as



comfortable as possible (if comfort is at all possible for two large men in a small open boat). However, one boat was in its own race against time. The crew had had only two months to prepare compared with two years for most other teams. Steve, Mark and other competitors gladly shared spare equipment and gave away, unhesitatingly, the solution to problems that had taken them a long time to find.

Friday 10th October: the race organisers were selling tickets for the official farewell party. The atmosphere was subdued. The time for jollity had passed. Whenever there is something very important in our lives that we have to do, there comes a time,

shortly beforehand, when it dominates our thoughts to the exclusion of all else. Others close by should not feel hurt or slighted by this. It is nature's ancient way of clearing our minds for life-preserving decisions. In this case, the rowers just wanted to get on with the rowing.

Saturday 12th October: 24 hours to go. We were struggling to find anything on the boat to improve. The video-camera was delivered by Meridian TV to enable Mark and Steve to make their video diary. We touched over a few

continued ...

scratches in the paintwork and took the boat out for a final trial while Steve and Mark were resting. It was the first time I had rowed the boat and I felt proud to have the chance to do so. Disaster struck for one of the other crews - one rower was taken ill with suspected food poisoning. Would others succumb too? It was like sitting on a time bomb.

Sunday 13th October: there was an expectant hush over Los Gigantes. The brave laughter of the past few days coming from the quayside cafes was no more. People who had not been able to get a place on any of the available yachts, power boats, or fishing boats, lined the harbour wall for a view of the start. Quietly, one at a time, the rowing boats slipped their moorings and headed out through the harbour entrance. Each was applauded by the watching crowd in sombre recognition of the magnitude of the feat being commenced.

With no delays or false starts the race began on time at 10 am. Within half an hour the boats were

so spread out that it was impossible to see many of them. On board one of the many boats accompanying the rowers for their first few miles, I was grateful when the skipper of our boat announced his decision to turn back and leave Toc H Phoenix to go it alone. It would have been impossible for any of us aboard as friend, wife or mother to decide the right moment. As our boat sped back to shore, we turned to face the wide ocean and dared not blink or blur the eye with a tear lest we should lose sight of that diminishing dot in the distance.

Jim Simpson

Shortly before going to press, Steve and Mark were in forth position, having covered 1,911 nautical miles. They were the leading British team, despite suffering a mishap on the 19th October, when Steve cut his head on the boats wind generator and Mark had to administer nine stitches. With 936 miles left to row, their estimated arrival date was the 17th December. A New Zealand boat had already successfully completed the race.

SNAPSHOTS

a flavour of Toc H events around the country

70th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Ipswich Women's Branch celebrated its 70th Birthday in October. A memorable occasion began at 10 am when Branch members and some friends, worked hard to prepare the refreshments.

The real celebration began when Members from the Branches of Caister, Clacton, Elmstead Market, Gorleston, Trimley and Ipswich Men joined us for a Service, conducted by Father Peter Leeming and Canon Dennis Yates, a Toc H Member and Padre of our Branch. The Service was graced by the presence of the Mayor of Ipswich, Jeanette MacCartney. John Burgess gave a talk which reminded us of all we have achieved during the life of the Branch. Light was celebrated by Dot Turner and "Lofty" Taylor, the Secretaries of the Ipswich Branches.

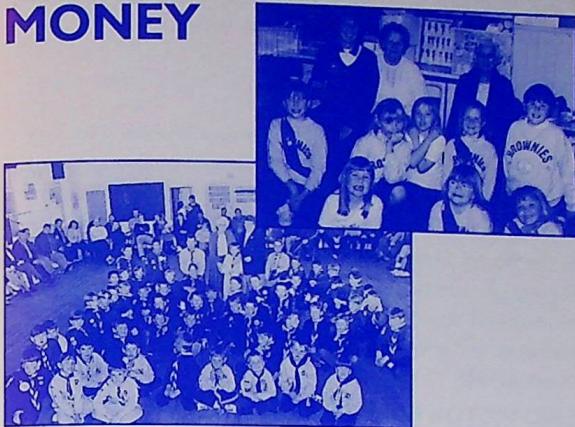
We then adjourned to the hall. Barbara Mauldon, Chairman, read a letter from Jamie Cann, the M.P for Ipswich, congratulating the Branch on reaching its 70th Birthday and

offering his support for the future, followed by Birthday Cards received from Members and Branches. Barbara spoke of her own experience in Toc H since 1954 when she became a Member, emphasising the fellowship, opportunities for service and fun she had and still is experiencing. She spoke of the present, referring to the enthusiasm that exists for Toc H, in spite of decreasing membership and increasing years, and the hope and prayer that Toc H will continue in Ipswich in some form.

Then it was time for the refreshments. When everyone had eaten all they possibly could, guests were entertained by the versatile entertainer, Jean Cass. Thus ended our 70th Birthday Celebrations. We said our goodbyes and wended our various ways homeward.

Barbara Mauldon
Chairman, Ipswich Women's Branch

SCOTTISH REGIONAL COUNCIL AWARDS MONEY



Pictured here are the Winchygates Brownies and Levan Brys Scouts receiving £100 each, from the Scottish Regional Council, to assist them in obtaining Badges of achievement.

ART SALE RAISES MONEY FOR TOC H

The Penn (Wolverhampton) Branch of Toc H has just raised £350 at a sale of garden plants, bring and buy - and ART! This unlikely combination of offerings took place on Saturday October 4th at St Bartholomew's Church Hall in Penn where those attending were able to buy pictures brought along by over 20 local artists ...straight "off the wall". "Unlike most art shows, people did not have to wait until the end of the exhibition," said an Organiser, "it was a question of first come, first served". There were lots of bargains and it was an unusual way of raising money. The artists gave a donation to Toc H and everyone attending paid an entrance fee. The £350 raised will go towards Friends of Alison House. The Toc H team organising this unusual event was led by Mrs Marjorie Berry and included Ann Turner, Alice Powell and June Hemsley.

COUPAR ANGUS BATTLES ON

Despite suffering at the hands of local vandals who have caused £800 worth of damage to their hall, the Coupar Angus Branch are determined not to let difficulties deter them in their work. They continue to run monthly afternoon tea parties and whist drives for local ageing or lonely people. In addition they are currently planning their Annual Christmas Dinner which caters for around forty local people and includes the distribution of parcels to local house and hospital-bound individuals.

FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS PROJECT

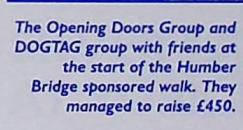
Does your branch sometimes feel dispirited? Do not despair - turn "Despair to Hope". We recently held our first "Friends and Neighbours Project" for seven new friends and elderly folk who could not go on holiday alone. We spent four wonderful days at Alison House. The true Toc H Spirit pervaded the house and the holiday at all times. Our new friends were overwhelmed by it all, and one friend, of 91, said it was the best holiday she had ever had.

Betty Wood
Secretary, Solihull Women's Branch

DOGTAG RAISES FUNDS



The Yarbourough Round Table present their donation of £600 to pay for the coach which will take volunteers and 20 less privileged children on the 'Christmas Capers' Project.



The Opening Doors Group and DOGTAG group with friends at the start of the Humber Bridge sponsored walk. They managed to raise £450.



The chairman Annette Kelly of 'HAVE A HEART' presents a £200 donation towards the forthcoming 'Christmas Capers' Project.

AREA RALLY SUCCESS

Outside the rain was coming down in sheets but inside a church hall in Kempston the atmosphere was bright and sunny as Members from surrounding districts gathered recently for their Area Rally. Masterminded by Pat and Jack Turner and the Kempston Branch, the day was attended by around a hundred Members from over sixteen Branches along with staff from Central Services, and for a short while, the local MP, Patrick Hall. The event kicked off with a generous lunch followed by a talk from the invited Speaker, the Rev'd Alan Brannagan, former Chaplain at St George's, Iper. A large raffle then ensued, raising around £120 for Toc H with Patrick Hall MP kindly agreeing to pull out the tickets. Entertainment was provided by Bedford Brass - a local youth band - and a Service of Rededication then drew the day to a close. While Members busied themselves with the serious task of catching up with their fellows, Pat did a sterling job comparing the whole event, ensuring that even the most talkative Members stuck to the programme.

CHANGES TO TOC H MEMBERSHIP

fresh faces and fond farewells

Every Member makes an invaluable, individual contribution to Toc H. In a regular feature, Point 3 acknowledges both those who are new to membership and those who sadly have passed on. In welcoming new Members, we hope to give you a flavour of the person behind the name by listing the 'hidden talents' individuals have told us about on their application forms. The Tributes and Farewells provide a limited opportunity to recognise the individual contributions made by those whose membership has sadly come to a close.

WELCOMES

- **Janet Raine**, member of Barton-on-Humber Branch.
- **Martin Raine**, member of Barton-on-Humber Branch.
- **Frederick Dobbs**, member of Broughton Astley Branch.
- **Louisa Ashfield**, member of Buckingham Branch.
- **Edward Hawkins**, member of Buckingham Branch.
- **Florence Hawkins**, member of Buckingham Branch.
- **Nora Halley**, member of Greenbank Branch.
- **Sandra Austin**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Sarah Buckley**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Kathleen Davies**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Carole Evans**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Elizabeth Heighton**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Paul Heighton**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Dorothy Lawless**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Mary Martindale**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Mary Murphy**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Magaret Nield**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Frederick Toy**, member of Halton Branch.
- **John Wallace**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Audrey Mason**, member of Long Eaton Branch.
- **Gordon Mason**, member of Long Eaton Branch.
- **Alan Weaver**, member of Seaford Branch.
- **Tom Berry**, member of South East Region.

TRIBUTES

- **DOROTHY CRIDLAND** Dorothy (Dot) had a life-long association with Toc H. She joined L.W.H in October 1935 and was very active with Keynsham Branch in Bristol and later with Twerton Branch in Bath. She moved to Cheltenham in 1961 and for the next 36 years continued to be involved with all aspects of Cheltenham Branch, being Chairman and Secretary at various times, and latterly, until her last illness, both jobs at the same time! She was always thankful for the part Toc H played in her life and, because she also gave so much to Toc H, the quality of Cheltenham branch life will be much the poorer as result of her passing. **EGV**
- **ALFRED BUCKLAND** Member of Elmstead Joint Branch was a valued Member of our Branch, and we have missed his presence from our Meetings this last 18 months. Although he had only become a Member in December 1990, he had attended with his wife Amy for some years before that and regularly helped with any events in which the Branch was involved. **MT**

• **GLADYS WILSON STEWART** was a founder Member of Uxbridge Women's Branch, at the end of World War Two. Her special interest was in The Spastic Residential centre near Beaconsfield, helping to start a Toc H Branch in the home. She enjoyed many trips to the Old House at Poperinge, and talked many times of meeting Tubby and his beloved dog. She moved to Melton with Robert her husband, and she became a valued and much loved Member. **MP**

• **ERIC VICTOR PAGE** joined Toc H at Bourne End in 1968. He then helped to reform Beaconsfield Branch where he became Chairman, and organised projects in Slough and the surrounding area. His activities were appreciated, and the District Executive soon elected him Chairman, followed by membership of the Regional Executive. When he resigned from this due to the amount of travel, he latched on to the post of Builders' Secretary when the vacancy arose.

For many years his comments, wit and criticism were a welcome contribution to Central Council both as a Councillor and member on open Councils. His final move was to Chalfonts Branch, where he kept the Branch very much alive with his tales and jokes. Within the district he regularly visited the Princess Marina Centre for Spastics, and was part of the Society of Disabled Artists (S.O.D.A) along with his wife, Esme.

When it was proposed to try and set up Friendship Circles in Buckinghamshire Eric was in at the start to help Jane Drew (nee Richardson). All this time he was combating diabetes, but unless you knew him closely you would be none the wiser. To the many whom he met he was a wonderful example of all four Points of the Compass, and he will be greatly missed. Our sympathies go to Esme and the family. **IRK**

FAREWELLS

- **Alfred Hagger**, member of High Brooms Branch.
- **'Graeme' Cranch**, member of South East Region.
- **Henrik Dequidt**, member of Poperinge Branch.
- **Basil Fabb**, member of South East Essex District.
- **Helen Spriggs**, member of Parkhurst Branch.
- **Harry Stevenson**, member of Walsall Branch.
- **Gladys Stewart**, member of Melton Mowbray Branch.
- **'Tim' Tobias**, member of London District.

Correction: In the October issue we printed a Tribute to Kathleen Read. However, due to a typing error the name appeared as Road. Apologies for any confusion caused.

LAMP OF LIGHT

LAMP YOU STAND BEFORE US WITH ALL YOUR HISTORY SO BOLD WAITING FOR THE LIGHT OF THE YOUNG AND OLD.

LAMP YOU STAND AS WE STAND BEFORE YOU KNOWING WHY WE ARE HERE AND WHAT WE MUST DO.

LAMP YOU BURN STRONGER NOW FROM THE OLD THE NEW GAIN STRENGTH TO GROW.

TUBBY WE THANK YOU FOR TOC H AND WHAT IT DID THEN AND WE WILL STRIVE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE NEED TO DO TODAY.

IN DOING YOUR WORK WE WILL NEVER FORGET THE STRONG FOUNDATION THAT TOC H WAS BUILT ON.

OUR OWN FOUNDATION SHOULD BE NURTURED TO GROW TO CONTINUE THE WORK SO WELL SET IN PLACE.

D S CHRISTIE

Winsford Toc H Community Action Group

September 1996

NOTICES**MINI BUS AVAILABLE**

The south east regional mini bus is available to all in Toc H around the UK. The mini bus is now two years old and can accommodate sixteen passengers plus driver. It is fitted with a Tachograph for continental journeys, it has a full length roof rack and a coverall to stow your luggage and food.

The costs for 1998 will be £15 per day and 15 pence per mile. The user will receive the bus with a full tank of diesel fuel, put in their own fuel whilst in use and return it with a brimming full tank.

The bus is based with staff member, John Burgess and cars may be left parked with John while users are away. The bus is capable of taking two wheelchairs with help of ramps (no lift) it has a radio cassette, all seats have fitted seatbelts and it is comprehensively insured. Green Card Insurance is supplied at no extra cost for continental trips. Your group would be required to take out an Automobile Association 5* Insurance for the bus going abroad. It is also strongly recommended that you also use their Passenger Insurance as well.

Full details available from JOHN BURGESS who may also be able to advise you on ways and means of crossing the channel. His details are: 66 Park Meadow, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5HB Tel & Fax: 01707 264949.

THE COLLECTOR KING

On an island in the Pacific
Lived a king, who, to be specific,
And you may find this terribly crass,
Built a palace entirely of grass.

Now this great king had a golden throne,
But did not care for it being alone;
He sent out servant, friend and brother
To bring him back many another.

Thrones collected like autumn leaves,
He even stowed them up in the eaves,
In fact so many were packed in the roof;
The ceilings bulged and that's the truth.

One day he sat in his palace alone,
Making a list of every throne.

Seeing the palace was perfectly filled,
When down came the roof and he was killed.

This is the moral, don't let it pass,
The impact of which is clear as glass,
Here is a truth that everyone owns;
People who live in grass palaces,
shouldn't stow thrones.

BILL BAINES
November 1996

**SILVER LAMP
AT YORK MINSTER**

The Toc H Silver Lamp, which has been housed at York Minster since 1933, has now been moved into the Treasury at the Minster. Treasury policy is, however, that no single item is assured of a permanent display, with items being displayed in rotation. The Toc H Lamp, therefore, will be on display for six months from 17th November, and anyone who wishes to see the Lamp during that time needs only to show their membership card to gain free access to the Treasury. After that time, from the end of May onwards, you will need to make contact direct with York Minster, through Dr P R Newman, to arrange to view the Lamp privately. Dr Newman's telephone number is 01904 637134 ext. 148.

WHAT'S ON

a guide to forthcoming Toc H events and opportunities

• PRAYER VIGIL

12th January - 1 - 4pm - Sheffield.

For the third year running a silent vigil will be held for Toc H at St Mary's Church, Bramall Lane, Sheffield. Members can participate either at St Mary's or in their own locality. For further details of the vigil and its message please contact Dennis Fielding. Tel: 0114 2367583

It was on 16th December, 25 years ago that Tubby Clayton, founder of Toc H, died peacefully in his sleep. It seems appropriate on this Anniversary to reproduce extracts* from two appreciations of the man and his life published shortly after his

He was by temperament an initiator. His inability to delegate (in my experience he was a wonderful man to work for and an almost impossible man to work with) made him very much less successful at the pedestrian work of maintenance. But there are hundreds of capable administrators to every single genuinely original thinker; and a genuinely original thinker he undoubtedly was. Ideas poured from him in an apparently unending stream, even in old age. Many were impractical, some were little short of crazy, but a few were inspired. His mind leapt to conclusions by intuition rather than by following the slow processes of logical thought. This creative spark was backed up by a prodigious memory, a memory for people and events, for poetry and stories..... and for facts on a wide range of unlikely topics..... The rapid spread of Toc H was achieved not only by energy and hard work, but also by Tubby's flair for publicity and by his ability to gain the friendship and help of influential people. To some, Tubby's concern to win over the powerful seemed a denial of the ideals for which Toc H stands, but it was not the result of snobbery - there was nothing Tubby enjoyed more than discomfiting the pompous or self-satisfied - but was based on an understanding of the realities of the world in which Toc H had to operate. And he never put on an act; he was always simply himself..... We cannot but mourn his

death. For those of us who never knew him, they offer a vivid portrait of the personality and character that initiated the Movement: for those who met or knew him well, I hope it evokes happy memories. Long may his legacy last.

SC

passing. We cannot but grieve for the loss of that rich, deep voice and uninhibited chuckle, those twinkling eyes, that relish for life's absurdities and boyish sense of fun. And yet if he could speak to us he would surely say that mourning must lead to action, that we can best honour his memory by a deeper commitment to the things for which he stood.

Ken Prideaux Brune

The native ability which was Tubby's aided by the constitution of the proverbial ox, would have brought him distinction, perhaps fame, in other paths than the one he chose..... It was, I think, this imaginative power, which more than anything else, made him the creative person, he proved to be..... His concern for people was genuine and deep-rooted..... A complete absence of pomposity and a keen, at times pawky, sense of humour, contributed not a little to the gaiety of nations. He knew himself better than some imagined, and he was perfectly capable of laughing at himself..... The day has mercifully long since passed when members of Toc H wondered if the Family would die with the death of its Founder. Its continuance is his greatest memorial..... He was indeed a dreamer; he saw visions; but whereas our dreams are made of gossamer and last but for a day, he clothed his with flesh and blood, made to endure.

John Durham

* extracts from the February 1973 issue of Point 3